

Preparedness and Planning

Funding Available: Postal Model for Medical Countermeasures Delivery and Distribution

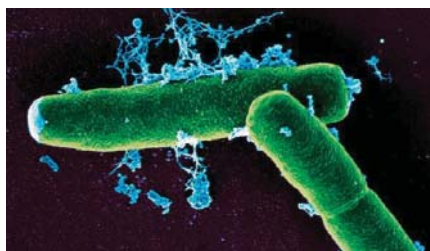
This grant is intended to help metropolitan areas augment their capabilities to respond to a large-scale bioterrorism attack. The primary focus of [the award](#) is to develop and test collaborative arrangements whereby the United States Postal Service and local law enforcement agencies, under the direction of the local or state public health authority, would deliver self-administrable medical countermeasures (specifically, antibiotic drugs) to every residence in the at-risk area with the goal of preventing disease and death and thus avoiding a public health catastrophe. The objective is to initiate direct residential delivery of antibiotics as soon as possible after detection of the attack and to complete delivery within 12 hours. The application deadline is March 18, 2011.

ICC Publishes 2009 Annual Report to the President

The Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC) has submitted its [annual report](#) to the President covering the time period of August 2008 to December 2009. The report describes the work of the ICC including response to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and the H1N1 Pandemic, ICC members' significant role in the 2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness, and the vital contributions of the ICC member agencies toward the development of an inclusive National Disaster Recovery Framework.

Data Insufficient for Firm Conclusion in 2001 Anthrax Case

After a review of the scientific methods used by the FBI in 2001 anthrax case, the National Research Council stated that scientific methods alone were [insufficient](#) to determine the source of the anthrax in the mailings. The FBI had previously stated that scientific methods were only a part of the entire investigative process used in the case.



NIOSH Proposes New Approach for Monitoring Responders' Health

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has released a new draft framework to monitor the health and safety of emergency responders. This [guidance document](#) builds on systems and practices currently in use, and should prove useful to persons or organizations who are responsible for, or design tools for, responder registration, credentialing, training, health screening, health monitoring, exposure assessment, safety, surveillance, and treatment. NIOSH is seeking comments on this framework by April 1, which can be emailed to nioshdocket@cdc.gov.

News

Creating Effective Emergency Alerts

[This article](#) in *Emergency Management* discusses the changes in emergency messaging and the need for emergency managers to incorporate social science research, marketing techniques, and risk communication principles to develop effective two-way communication with the public.

Veterinary Preparedness Resource Available to States

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) can assist health agencies by providing veterinary response during emergencies. Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams serve as first responders to ensure high-quality care of animals during disasters and emergencies. Teams can be used from as little as 72 hours up to 5-day deployments. [This resource](#) is free to states as long as a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the state's animal health authority is in place before services are requested. Michigan does not currently have an MOU with the AVMA, but the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture are currently considering this possibility.

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Important Tips to Ensure Safety When Using Generators

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is reminding people to practice safety measures when using portable generators. Storms have the potential to knock out power for prolonged periods of time, and generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed - but can also be extremely hazardous and even life threatening. Potential hazards when using a generator include carbon monoxide poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, and electrical, fire and noise hazards.

CPG 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans

Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, published in November 2010, provides guidance for developing emergency operations plans. It promotes a common understanding of the fundamentals of risk-informed planning and decision making to help planners examine a hazard or threat and produce integrated, coordinated, and synchronized plans. The goal of CPG 101 is to assist in making the planning process routine across all phases of emergency management and for all homeland security mission areas. This Guide helps planners at all levels of government in their efforts to develop and maintain viable, all-hazards, all-threats emergency plans.

Stockpiled H5N1 Vaccine Useful for Prime-Boost Strategy

Researchers at the Saint Louis University's Center for Vaccine Development have found that vaccination with the stockpiled 2004 Vietnam strain of avian flu vaccine when combined with the currently circulating Indonesian strain can provide protection against a potential pandemic. An accelerated vaccine schedule of injections administered at days 0 and 14 was as immunogenic as a vaccine schedule of injections at days 0 and 28, but both schedules were inferior to a vaccine schedule of injections administered at 0 and 6 months for priming for heterologous vaccine boosting.

Cross-Jurisdictional Relationships in Local Public Health

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation commissioned this environmental scan to learn what types of relationships currently exist between health departments—how are they structured, how and why were they created, and how well are they working? This report summarizes the researchers' observations regarding barriers to cross-jurisdictional relationships in local public health as well as the conditions that are important to the development of successful relationships. Also summarized are the considerations that should be taken into account when looking at the potential for crossjurisdictional relationships to strengthen the national public health system.

Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Workers

Thomas R. Talbot, MD, MPH and William Schaffner, MD from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine published commentary on mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers at Virginia Mason Medical Center and what it means for the future of healthcare worker vaccination. They state the importance of mandatory healthcare worker vaccination because of their proximity to patients. They cite that voluntary vaccination does not raise the numbers enough for herd immunity as was shown by childhood vaccinations peaking at 65% of the population before becoming mandatory for school entry. They feel that low rates of vaccination of healthcare workers cannot be tolerated and push for other hospitals to require vaccinations of their employees.



APIC: Mandate Flu Vaccine for Healthcare Workers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) is recommending mandatory influenza vaccination of healthcare workers. APIC cited that studies have shown that vaccination of healthcare workers reduces patient mortality. According to APIC, "This is not only a patient safety imperative, but is a moral and ethical obligation to those who place their trust in our care."

New CBRN Standard for Canada Issued

CSA (Canadian Standards Association) Standards, a non-profit company that develops standards for public health and safety, and the government of Canada, issued national personal protective equipment (PPE) standards for Canada. These new standards cover PPE for fire, police, and paramedics in Canada in response to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

HHS Annual Report on Bioshield Project

This annual report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updates Congress on the progress of the Bioshield Project. The Bioshield Project Act was designed to provide additional and more flexible authorities and funding to financially support and expedite the development and procurement of medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threat agents. The annual report outlines the use of authorities covers by the act and how they were used over the past year. These authorities include research and development of qualified medical countermeasures, Security Countermeasure Procurements and Special Reserve Fund, and emergency use authorization for medical countermeasures.

Safety of Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine in China

Researchers in the *New England Journal of Medicine* studied the safety of the 2009 influenza A H1N1 vaccine program in China. They utilized passive surveillance to collect data from physicians and vaccine providers through March 21, 2010. The data showed of the 89.1 million doses administered, 8067 reported adverse events. Over one thousand (n=1038) reactions were categorized as rare or serious. Eleven cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome were reported.

Pathogen Library?

Microbial forensics is an emerging field devoted to the development of methods to characterize microbial samples for the purpose of comparative analysis in support of investigations into criminal or terrorist acts. The comparison and classification of microbial isolates has been a focus of microbiological studies for more than 100 years. Historically, such comparisons have relied on overt characteristics of microbes, such as cell morphology, Gram staining, serology, and growth on diagnostic media. The advent of DNA sequence-based methods has dramatically improved our ability to discern relatedness between two isolates, and offers the resolution required for attribution in forensic investigations. Microbial forensic results may be used in criminal prosecution or in making national security decisions. The independent group of scientists which advises the United States government on matters of science and technology was asked to address the development of a research roadmap that would provide an underpinning for improved microbial forensic capabilities.

Public-Sector Research in the Discovery of Drugs and Vaccines

According to researchers in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, public-sector research has uncovered many new drugs and vaccines that directly improve the public's health. One hundred fifty-three new FDA-approved

drugs have been discovered over the past 40 years by public-sector research. More than half of these drugs have been used in the treatment or prevention of cancer or infectious diseases. The [data showed](#) that effect of public-sector research was more than was initially thought.

FEMA Releases Functional Needs Support Services Guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided new emergency sheltering guidelines to help state planners and nonprofit organizations ensure people with access and functional needs receive lawful and equitable assistance after disasters. The [Functional Needs Support Services Guidance](#), or FNSS, offers recommendations to state governments to help them provide emergency sheltering services to meet the needs of their communities and are in compliance with existing federal laws designed to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability. The FNSS guidance encourages emergency managers to plan for meeting the access and functional needs of the whole community.

Surveillance

Endemic Foodborne Botulism among Alaska Native Persons—Alaska, 1947–2007

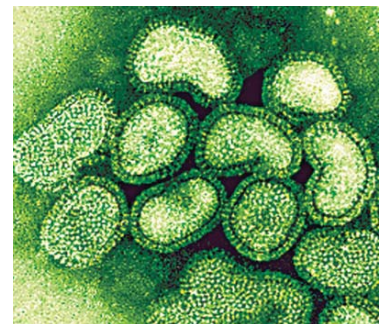
Researchers in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* published a study on uncooked aquatic food and its cause of botulism outbreaks in Alaskan Natives. The researchers reviewed botulism outbreak records from 1947 and 2007. Three hundred seventeen cases were included as well as 159 outbreaks. The data showed that Alaska Natives over 60 years old had the highest incidence of botulism. Raw fish parts including heads and eggs caused the highest percentage of botulism at 47.5%. The [researchers concluded](#) that further education needs to take place in order to prevent botulism outbreaks in this population which is 800 times higher than the rest of the U.S.

Nosocomial Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, United Kingdom, 2009–2010

In *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, researchers studied hospital-based influenza infections in the United Kingdom. To determine the clinical characteristics of the nosocomial pandemic H1N1 2009 infection, they studied 1,520 patients in 75 National Health Service hospitals. Of the 1,520 patients, 30 contracted influenza nosocomially. Of the 30 patients, most had serious underlying conditions. Over half the patients (53%) needed mechanical ventilation and 8 patients died. The [researchers recommend](#) that healthcare staff be vaccinated for influenza and that they remain vigilant in preventing disease transmission in the hospital.

New Study Sheds Light on Spread of H1N1

If you or your child came down with influenza during the H1N1 outbreak in 2009, it may not have happened the way you thought it did. A [new study](#) of a 2009 epidemic at a school in Pennsylvania has found that children most likely did not catch it by sitting near an infected classmate, and that adults who got sick were probably not infected by their own children.



Communications

New National Terrorism Advisory System Implemented

On January 27, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the color-coded alerts of the Homeland Security Advisory System will be discontinued and replaced with a new system, called the [National Terrorism Advisory System](#) (NTAS). According to DHS, the NTAS will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

Twitter, Facebook Are Part of New Terror Alert System

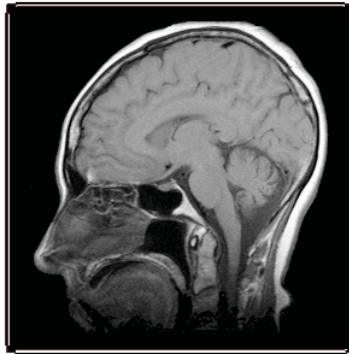
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is implementing the new National Terrorism Advisory System that will distribute alerts not only through traditional law enforcement and news media channels, but also [through social media](#). As part of that new distribution system, DHS set up a new Twitter account to carry the new alerts. The department also plans to publicize the alerts on the DHS Facebook page and on a new dedicated DHS webpage for alerts.

FEMA Will use Social Media Through All Stages of a Disaster

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate stated that the agency uses Twitter to both provide and search for information during emergencies. During the recent winter storms, FEMA, with 30,000 followers, used Twitter to [provide warnings](#) to the public and to obtain on-the-ground updates. FEMA also re-Tweets information from other government agencies during the recovery phase of a disaster.

FDA Approves Diagnostic Radiology App for Mobile Devices

A new mobile radiology application (app) cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will allow physicians to [view medical images](#) on the iPhone and iPad manufactured by Apple Inc. The application is the first cleared by the FDA for viewing images and making medical diagnoses based on computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and nuclear medicine technology, such as positron emission tomography (PET). It is not intended to replace full workstations and is indicated for use only when there is no access to a workstation.



Muslim Extremist Groups Find Western Converts with Social Media

Although diminished, al Qaeda and its ideological adherents are finding converts in the West thanks to deft use of the internet and social media, says a [new report](#) from the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The report, released February 8, says the oncehierarchical terrorist organization lead by Osama bin Laden has in recent years become a three-tiered configuration consisting of a small core in western Pakistan, affiliated or like-minded groups across the world, and a fringe of unaffiliated al Qaeda-inspired cells or individuals who still receive occasional guidance from the core and affiliates.

Social Media's Impact on Reputation Management

Peter Sandman, a risk communications expert, posted a full-length audio interview with Intellectual Property Magazine on how to [manage your reputation on social media](#).

Pandemic Planning

Variability in School Closure Decisions in Response to 2009 H1N1

In an article from *BMC Public Health*, researchers discussed efficiency improvements to school closure procedures due pandemic influenza. They found that closure decisions reflected significant variation in rationales, decision triggers, and authority for closure from the data collected from media reports and by monitoring decision makers meetings. The researchers suggest that officials clarify the goals of closure and tailor closure decisions to those goals. They found that there were many jurisdictions with open disagreements between local health and school officials. Officials were also found to have frustration over the level of scientific uncertainty concerning the pandemic.

Population-based Public Health Response to 2009 H1N1

Authors in *BMC Public Health* suggested that population-based public health response measures outlined by the World Health Organization's (WHO) need review. They argue that measures including school closure, antivirals, border closure, and vaccination were all ineffectively implemented and did nothing to stop influenza spread. They suggest that because these measures are the cornerstone of the worldwide pandemic response that the WHO needs to reevaluate their pandemic preparedness plans.

Other News

New Designer Drug Hospitalizes 18 in Michigan

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is warning people to beware of a new designer drug being marketed by the name "bath salts." These so-called "bath salts" are being sold across the country as a crystalline powder online, at head shops, convenience stores, and on the street. These are not commercially manufactured bath salts that people purchase to use in the bath tub. At this time, hospital emergency departments in Michigan have reported 18 cases related to the use of "bath salts" in the past four weeks, many of which have been in the Marquette area. Many of the people treated in emergency departments have been young adults in their 20s and 30s. Similar reports have been seen in states across the country.

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 19, 2011	Accessing Health Care Coverage & Services for MI-Child Training This workshop is for people who serve as "support parents" to fellow parents of children with special needs. Support parents will be able to identify types of public health care coverage available, apply for benefits online, list services available to children and families with hereditary disorders, get information on accessing coverage for mental health services, and become familiar with social security programs for young people. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <u>Click here</u> for more information, including registration information.	The ARC Dearborn 27325 West Warren Dearborn, MI 48127 (313) 562-0219 Additional Dates: Mar 5 - Muskegon, MI Apr 9 - Lawrence, MI Apr 30 - Petoskey, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 22, 2011 8am	Pediatric Disaster Management Conference The conference , sponsored by Michigan's Region 6 and the DeVos Children's Hospital, objectives include: recognize that all pediatric age groups must be considered in all aspects of disaster preparedness; identify that children in disaster situations are a vulnerable population, ; link regional hospital health care providers with community and regional responders in pediatric disaster preparedness; and recognize that children of all ages need attention when disaster plans are written and exercised, equipment and supplies are purchased and disaster response and recovery efforts are activated.	Holiday Inn Ferris State University 1005 Perry Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307
Feb. 22, 2011	2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit The release of the <i>National Health Security Strategy</i> late last year and the companion <i>Biennial Implementation Plan</i> present significant public health preparedness initiatives that have implications at all levels of government and the private sector. The Summit will provide an opportunity for attendees to better understand the goals and objectives of these two plans and provide feedback to national leaders to further inform the future development of these initiatives.	Atlanta, GA
Feb. 23, 2011 2pm	New Strategies in the Fight against Cyber Terrorism The recent discovery of a jumble of code called Stuxnet has expert's worldwide re-thinking strategies in the war against cyber terrorism. Targeting a nuclear facility in Iran, the worm included a highly complex targeting mechanism that reportedly took 10,000 man days of labor to create. This and other attacks in recent year's leads to the question, how safe is our critical infrastructure today? This presentation will define various types of cyber attacks and discuss common targets, including potential threats to our critical infrastructure. This includes power grids, banking/finance, communications, chemical facilities, transportation and medical sectors.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Feb. 23, 2011 11am	FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. This webinar and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Feb. 24, 2011 3pm	Emergency Preparedness for Farmers, Ranchers and other Rural Residents with Disabilities People with disabilities are vulnerable to disasters and farmers/ranchers, family members, and other rural residents with disabilities are no exception. Join the National AgrAbility Project for a free webinar that explores emergency preparedness for this population group. The webinar will cover the development of emergency preparedness plans and support networks, sheltering, fire emergencies, mental health issues in emergencies, and more.	webinar

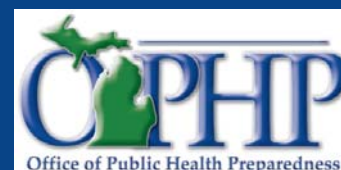
Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 4, 2011	Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life? This workshop is for families of teens (or professionals who serve them) with special health care needs, receiving mental health services, or who have a disability. Information and practical suggestions will be shared for helping teens prepare to transition from high school to employment, high school to higher education, home to independent living, and/or from child to adult community services. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. Click here for more information, including registration information.	Ionia, MI Additional MI Locations: Mar. 24 - Ann Arbor Apr. 28 - Alpena Apr. 29 - Sault Ste. Marie
Mar. 9, 2011 12:30pm	ICS-400: Advanced Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents Region 2 South is hosting the ICS 400 – Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff. This is a 2.5 day course geared toward senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity at an incident. This course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the ICS. The course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100, ICS 200 and ICS 300 (any version) courses. To register, please go to the Region 2 South Training website... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click “Sign In” (far upper right corner) • Use account name “2south@2south.org” and password “2south”. • Once logged in, click on the “Training” link under the Region 2S icon. Contact Jacqueline Henry by email at JHenry@2south.org for questions.	Westland Specialty Center 35600 Central City Pkwy Westland, MI 48185
Mar. 12, 2011 9am	Continuity of Operations Planning Provide emergency planners with knowledge and skills to create COOP plans, and to return to their jurisdictions and train other emergency planners and state/local/tribal agency personnel to develop their own COOP Plans. This course is sponsored by Department of Homeland Security and the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security. For more information, including registration information please contact (231) 728-1967 or email amandac@miregion6.org .	Big Rapids Holiday Inn Ferris State University
Mar. 14, 2011 3pm	FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. This webinar and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Mar. 15, 2011	4th Conference on Global Preparedness and Resilience This conference will focus on global resilient technologies and infrastructure. It has four interlinked themes presented over the two days of conference: global demand for integrated preparedness, resilient technological applications, resilient infrastructure applications and resiliency forecasting.	Florida Institute of Technology Melbourne, FL

Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 21, 2011	Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness This conference provides state and local health officials and their partners with the tools necessary to develop and implement response and recovery plans related to mass casualty radiation events. Visit the conference website for more information.	Atlanta, GA
Apr. 1, 2011	Michigan Epidemiology Conference This year's conference will feature a keynote address by Dr. Eric Noji, called by some the Father of Disaster Epidemiology. Dr. Noji is a Senior Associate Professor of Epidemiology; Chairman & CEO of Noji Global Health & Security LLC. He will be speaking on the epidemiological aspects of disaster relief and preparedness. Additional details, once available, will be posted on the Michigan Public Health Association website .	University of Michigan School of Public Health Crossroads Building Ann Arbor, MI
Apr. 3, 2011	E-Beam and X-Ray Irradiation Technologies The National Center for Electron Beam Research (NCEBR) serves as an unbiased venue for academic, government, and industry scientists to carry out strategic electronic pasteurization and sterilization research and commercial projects using E-beam and X-rays. To address the needs of the food, phytosanitary, agribusiness, and pharmaceutical industries the NCEBR is organizing a week-long hands-on workshop in E-Beam and X-ray technologies in April 2011.	400 Discover Drive College Station, TX 77845
Apr. 11, 2011	2011 Emergency Preparedness Solutions for Long Term Care Conference Both federal and state laws require skilled, licensed long term care facilities to have a written disaster plan. This conference will provide attendees with resources, templates, personal experiences and lessons learned from prior disaster experiences, while allowing time for networking with partners in emergency preparedness. This conference is open to Michigan long term care administrators, directors of nursing, social work directors, safety/emergency preparedness officers, and surveyors. Please note there is a limit of two representatives per facility. There is no fee for attending this conference. For more information, including registration details, please visit the MI-TRAIN website and search for course ID#: 1025029.	Suburban Collection Showplace Novi, MI
May 2, 2011	Supporting Youth into Healthy Productive Adulthood This workshop is for individuals working with young people in faith-based organizations, schools, and youth groups in Wayne County. Participants will explore ways to give parents/caregivers, teachers, and others working with children the tools they need to make responsible decisions. CUEs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. Click here for more information, including registration information.	Detroit, MI Additional MI Locations: May 7 - Detroit
May 3, 2011	Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference & Expo This annual conference brings together more than 1,200 attendees from a variety of disciplines including law enforcement, fire, public health and health care, school administration, emergency management, and the private sector.	Grand Rapids, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 5, 2011	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference Save the date for this important international conference. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on Michigan's border health webpage .	Niagara Falls, NY
May 25, 2011	Communicable Disease Conference This conference seeks to provide the latest knowledge on communicable disease diagnosis, surveillance, reporting, laboratory test interpretation, and incorporation of epidemiologic principals. The target audience includes communicable disease nurses, epidemiologists, medical officers, health officers, infection control professionals, environmental health specialists, physicians, or any other health professional interested in communicable diseases.	Doubletree Hotel Bay City, MI



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 Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
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